

Key State Education Policies on PK-12 Education: 2008

Time in School Policies
School Attendance Policies
Graduation Requirements
State Content Standards
Teacher Licensure
Student Assessment

Results from a 50-State Survey conducted by CCSSO

Prepared by:

Lauren Stillman
Rolf K. Blank

Council of Chief State School Officers
Washington, DC

Survey and report produced through cooperation of the State Departments of Education



Council of Chief State School Officers

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) is a nonpartisan, nationwide, nonprofit organization of public officials who head departments of elementary and secondary education in the states, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and five U.S. extra-state jurisdictions. CCSSO provides leadership, advocacy, and technical assistance on major educational issues. The Council seeks member consensus on major educational issues and expresses their views to civic and professional organizations, federal agencies, Congress, and the public.

State Education Indicators

The Council is a strong advocate for improving the quality and comparability of assessments and data systems to produce accurate indicators of the progress of our elementary and secondary schools. The CCSSO Education Indicators project is providing leadership in developing a system of state-by-state indicators of the condition of K-12 education. Indicators activities include collecting and reporting statistical indicators by state, tracking state policy changes, assisting with accountability systems, and conducting analyses of trends in education.

The CCSSO reports on state education policies inform education leaders and educators about the current status and trends in policies across the 50 states that define and shape elementary and secondary education in public schools. The report is part of a continuing biennial series produced by the Council's education indicators project. We report 50-state information on policies regarding teacher preparation and certification, graduation requirements, state content standards, student assessment programs, school time, and student attendance. The work of CCSSO is possible because of the excellent cooperation and coordination by staff in each state department of education.

2009

Council of Chief State School Officers

Susan Gendron (Maine), President

Gene Wilhoit, Executive Director

Rolf K. Blank, Director of Education Indicators

Copies of this report may be ordered for \$10.00 per copy from:

Council of Chief State School Officers
Attn: Publications
One Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001
202-336-7016
Fax: 202-408-8072
www.ccsso.org

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Time in School Policies—2008	3
Length of School Year, State Policies in Number of Days or Total Hours.....	3
Date for Start of School Year	3
Length of School Day in Minimum Hours by Grade Level.....	3
State Policies and District Practices Regarding Year-Round Schools.....	3
School Attendance Policies—2008	8
State Kindergarten Programs	8
Student Attendance Requirements.....	8
Graduation Requirements—2008.....	11
State Credit Requirements for High School Graduation, Core Academic Subjects.....	13
Specific Courses Required for Graduation in Mathematics and Science.....	14
Specific Courses Required for Graduation in Social Studies and Other Subjects	15
Credit Requirements for Graduation: Health, Physical Education, Foreign Language	16
Advanced Diploma: Credit Requirements for High School Graduation	17
High School Exit Exam Requirements	18
Other High School Graduation Requirements	19
State Content Standards—2008	20
State Policies on Textbooks and Standards	21
Teacher Preparation —2008	22
Professional Development Aligned with State Content Standards.....	23
Professional Development Requirements for Teacher License Renewal/Recertification	24
Student Assessment—2007-2008	25
Statewide Student Assessment: English Language Arts	26
Statewide Student Assessment: Mathematics	28
Statewide Student Assessment: Science	30
Appendices	31
Appendix A: Sources of Information	31
Appendix B: 2008 Key State Education Policies Update Questions.....	32

Introduction

Purpose of Survey and Report

The Key State Education Policies on PK-12 Education is intended to inform policymakers and educators about the current status of key education policies that define and shape elementary and secondary education in public schools across the 50 states. The report is part of a continuing series by the Council's State Education Indicators program. The Council began reporting on trends in state education policies and statistical indicators of the condition of education in the 1980s, when most state legislatures and boards of education approved policy initiatives aimed at improving the quality of K–12 education. CCSSO has continued to collect and report 50-state information on policies regarding teacher preparation and certification, high school graduation requirements, student assessment programs, school time, and student attendance. In the 1990s, other categories of policies were added to the report including state content standards and curriculum, teacher assessment, and school leader/administrator licensure. Additional questions related to the alignment of professional development with state content standards were added for the current report.

The primary goal of the Council's work with education indicators is to assist national, state, and local policy makers and leaders in making informed decisions. The policies included in the 2008 report are based on advice from Council staff and users in states. All of the information is collected and reported through the support and cooperation of the Chief State School Officers in each state and their staff.

Sources

This report provides policy information for the 50 states and the District of Columbia as of the fall of 2008. The current report is the tenth in the series (CCSSO 1987, 1992, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008). State education staff reported on current policies through a survey administered in winter 2008 by Education Indicators staff of CCSSO. CCSSO staff also collected additional assessment information through state websites.

More Information

For more information on state education policies and further details on the policies being reported, you may contact Lauren Stillman, CCSSO Associate, 202-336-7049; lstillman@ccsso.org, or Rolf Blank, CCSSO Director of Education Indicators.

To obtain a print copy of this report, go to www.ccsso.org/publications, or call 202-336-7016. You may also find a copy of this report as well as copies of previous reports on the CCSSO web site (http://www.ccsso.org/projects/state_Education_Indicators).

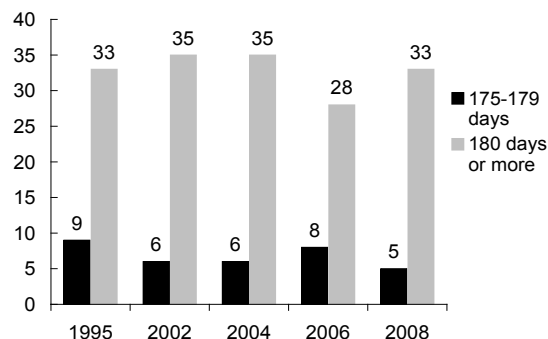
Time in School Policies

This section of the report provides state level information on policies related to length of school year, date for start of school, length of school day, and year-round schools.

Length of School Year

Table 1

Since 1989, CCSSO has collected and reported information on state time and attendance policies. As of fall 2008, of the 42 states that have a policy on the minimum days of a school year, 33 require the school year to be 180 days or longer, and 5 states require between 175 and 179 days. In 1995 the totals were 33 and 9, respectively. The bar graph to the right shows the trend in state length of school year policies over a 13 year period. In addition, Table 1 shows 34 states which list requirements in hours.



Date for Start of School

Table 2

As in prior years, the 2008 Key State Policies update finds that most states report fall as the most popular season for the start of school. The majority of states listed a range of acceptable start dates rather than a single date. Of the 42 states that reported having a policy which allows for the school start date to land anywhere within a state-specified range, 40 listed a range which included the month of August and 24 states had ranges beginning in August and ending in September. In addition, 17 states listed a date before which the start of school is prohibited, the most common date being July 1.

Length of School Day

Table 3

As of fall 2008, 31 states require five or more instructional hours per day (or no less than 900 hours/year, which is roughly equivalent to a five hour day when divided by 180—the mode number of days reported in Table 1) in grades one through high school. For the first through sixth grades, 32 states require at least five hours per day. A similar minimum is required in 36 states for grades seven and eight and for high school (grades 9-12). As in 2006, in 2008 all state high school minimums range from four to seven hours per day except for Missouri which places three hours at the lower limit and West Virginia with a policy of 3.75 hours per day.

Year-Round School: State and District Policies

Table 4

Currently, 17 states have a policy regarding year-round school. Despite the fairly low number of states with a policy, 30 states report that one or more districts operate year-round schools. Among states with year-round school programs, few report high numbers of districts with such schools.

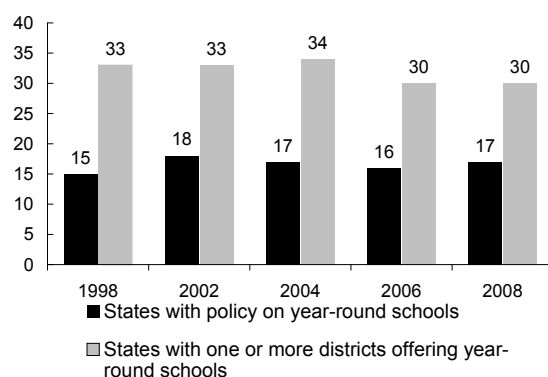


Table 1

Length of School Year, State Policies in Number of Days or Total Hours — 2008

State	Days	Hours	Minimum Days After Exception	Minimum Hours After Exception
Alabama	180	—		—
Alaska	180	—	No Minimum	740 (K-3); 900 (4-12)
Arizona	180	—		—
Arkansas	178	6	Varies	No Minimum
California	180	—	163	
Colorado	—	968 (E); 1056 (S)	142	
Connecticut	180	900		—
DC	180			
Delaware	—	1060 (K-11); 1032 (12)		440 (K)
Florida	180	—	177	Varies
Georgia	180	810 (K-3); 900 (4-5); 990 (6-12)	Varies	Varies
Hawaii	180	—		—
Idaho	170	450 (K); 810 (1-3); 900 (4-8); 990 (9-12)	No Minimum	Varies
Illinois	185	880		
Indiana	180	900 (K-6); 1080 (7-12)	Varies	Varies
Iowa	180	990 (1-11); 962 (12)	No Minimum	Varies
Kansas	186 (K-11); 181 (12)	465 (K); 1116 (1-11); 1086 (12)	No Minimum	No Minimum
Kentucky	—	1062	No Minimum	No Minimum
Louisiana	177	1062		—
Maine	180	—	175 (K-11); 170 (12)	No Minimum
Maryland	Varies	1080 (E, M); 1170 (H)	Varies	Varies
Massachusetts	180	425 (K); 900 (E); 990 (S)	Varies; 168 for seniors	Varies
Michigan	—	549 (K); 1098		—
Minnesota	—*	—	—*	—
Mississippi	180	990	No Minimum	Varies
Missouri [^]	174	522 (K); 1044	Varies	Varies
Montana	—	360 (K); 760 (1-3); 1080 (4-12)		—
Nebraska	—	400 (K); 1032 (E); 1080 (S)	No Minimum	Varies
Nevada	180	—		—
New Hampshire	180 (K-11); 175 (12)	945 (E); 990 (M, H) of instruction	No Minimum	Varies
New Jersey	180	—		—
New Mexico	180	990 (K-6); 1080 (7-12)		—
New York	180	—		—
North Carolina	180	1000		—
North Dakota	173	951.5 (1-6); 1038 (7-12)	Varies	Varies
Ohio	182	455 (K); 910 (1-6); 1001 (7-12)	Varies	Varies
Oklahoma	175	1050		—
Oregon	—	405 (K); 810 (1-3); 900 (4-8); 990 (9-12)	No Minimum	
Pennsylvania [^]	180	900 (K-6); 990 (7-12)	No Minimum	Varies
Rhode Island	180	—		—
South Carolina	180	—		—
South Dakota	—	875 (1-3); 962.5 (4-12)		—
Tennessee	180	—		6.5 Hour Minimum Day
Texas	180	—		Varies
Utah	180	990	Varies	Varies
Vermont [^]	175	350 (K); 700 (1-2); 962.5 (3-12)		—
Virginia	180	990	Varies	Varies
Washington	180	450 (K); 1000 (1-12)	No Minimum	Varies
West Virginia	180	—		—
Wisconsin	180	437 (PK, K); 1050 (1-6); 1137 (7-12)	Varies	Varies
Wyoming	175	450 (K); 900 (E); 1050 (M); 1100 (H)	Varies	—
Total	33 states ≥ 180 days		16 states w/ policy	22 states w/ policy

Note: [^] State did not participate in the 2008 online survey; data shown is as of 2006; "—" indicates state does not have a requirement in this category; PK= Pre-Kindergarten; K= Kindergarten; M= Middle; H= High School; S= Secondary; *Minnesota - at least the same number of days as the district had in the 1996-1997 calendar year

Table 2

Date for Start of School Year — 2008

State	Majority Start Date for Fall 2008	Earliest Allowable	Latest Allowable
Alabama	August 7 - August 11	—	—
Alaska	September 1	—	—
Arizona	—	—	—
Arkansas	August 18 - August 26	Local decision	—
California	Data not collected by state	—	—
Colorado	August 5 - September 8	—	—
Connecticut	August 5 - September 5	—	—
District of Columbia	August 18 - September 4	—	—
Delaware	August 14 - September 10	—	—
Florida	August 18 - August 22	14 days before Labor Day*	—
Georgia	July 11 - August 18	—	—
Hawaii	July 30 - August 6	June 26*	—
Idaho	August 14 - September 2	—	—
Illinois	August 5 - September 10	—	—
Indiana	August 10 - August 18	July 1	—
Iowa	August 11 - September 2	September 1*	—
Kansas	August 13 - August 21	—	—
Kentucky	July 29 - August 21	—	—
Louisiana	August 7 - August 12	—	—
Maine	August 10 - September 9	—	—
Maryland	August 20 - September 2	—	—
Massachusetts	Late August - Mid-September	—	—
Michigan	August 23 - September 10	Labor Day	—
Minnesota	September 3 (Day after Labor Day)	Labor Day*	—
Mississippi	August 1 - August 11	August 1	—
Missouri [^]	August 17 - August 29	—	—
Montana	Mon. before Labor Day - Tues. after	—	—
Nebraska	—	—	—
Nevada	Late August - Early September	—	—
New Hampshire	August 28- September 4	—	—
New Jersey	First Week in September	—	—
New Mexico	August - after Labor Day	Local decision	—
New York	Data not collected by state	Local decision	—
North Carolina	August 25	August 25*	—
North Dakota	Last week/Aug - 1st week/Sept	—	—
Ohio	August 22 - September 7	July 1	June 30th
Oklahoma	August 11 - August 18	—	—
Oregon	Last week/Aug - 1st week/Sept	July 1	—
Pennsylvania [^]	August 29 - September 6	July 1	—
Rhode Island	August 30 - September 8	—	First Thursday after First Monday in Sept.
South Carolina	August 18 - August 25	Third Monday in August*	—
South Dakota	August 20 - September 4	July 1	—
Tennessee	1st - 3rd week of August	—	First Tuesday after Labor Day
Texas	August 22 - August 26	Fourth Monday in August	—
Utah	—	Local decision	October 1st
Vermont [^]	August 28 - September 5	—	—
Virginia	After Labor Day	Labor Day*	—
Washington	August 25 - September 3	Local decision	—
West Virginia	August 27 - August 28	August 26	—
Wisconsin	September 1 - September 15	September 1	—
Wyoming	August 23 - September 07	—	—
Total	42 states lists a range of dates	17 states with policy	4 states with latest date policy

Note: [^] State did not participate in the 2008 online survey; data shown is as of 2006; “—” indicates state does not have a requirement in this category; *Florida - Florida Statutes 1003.621 exempts a school district from this requirement when district is designated as academically high-performing school district; Hawaii - multi-track school only; Iowa -- waiver available to open before September 1; Minnesota - some exceptions allowed; North Carolina - exception for year round schools; South Carolina - exception for year round modified schools; Virginia -- schools may open before Labor Day if granted a waiver for good cause from the Virginia Board of Education

Table 3

Length of School Day in Minimum Hours by Grade Level — 2008

State	Pre-Kindergarten	Half-Day Kindergarten	Full-day Kindergarten	Grades 1-6	Grades 7-8	Grades 9-12
Alabama	—	—	6	6	6	6
Alaska	—	—	4	4 (1-3); 5 (4-6)	5	5
Arizona	1.2	2	—	4-5	6	—
Arkansas	—	—	6	6	6	6
California	—	3.3	—	4.7(1-3); 5 (4-6)	5	6
Colorado	—	—	—	—	—	—
Connecticut	—	—	—	—	—	—
District of Columbia	6	6	6	6	6	6
Delaware	—	440/yr	1060/yr	1060/yr	1060/yr	1060/yr
Florida	—	—	—	5	5	5
Georgia	4.5	—	4.5	4.5 (1-3); 5.0 (4-5)	5.5 (6-8)	5.5
Hawaii	6	6	6	6	6	6
Idaho	—	2.5	—	4	4	4
Illinois	5	—	5	5	5	5
Indiana	—	2.5	5	5	6	6
Iowa	—	—	—	5.5	5.5	5.5
Kansas	—	2.5	—	6	6	6
Kentucky	—	—	6	6	6	6
Louisiana	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maine	—	2.5	2.5	5	5	5
Maryland	2.5	—	6.5	6	6	6.5
Massachusetts	—	—	—	LD	LD	LD
Michigan	2.5	—	—	—	—	—
Minnesota	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mississippi	5.5/day; 990/yr	990/yr	5.5/day; 990/yr	5.5/day; 990/yr	5.5/day; 990/yr	5.5
Missouri [^]	—	1.5/day; 522/yr	1.5/day; 522/yr	3/day; 1044/yr	3/day; 1044/yr	3/day; 1044/yr
Montana	—	360/yr	720/yr	1080/yr	1080/yr	1080/yr
Nebraska	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nevada	—	—	2	5	5.5	5.5
New Hampshire	—	—	—	6	6	6
New Jersey	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Mexico	—	2.5	5.5	5.5	6	6
New York	—	2.5	5	5	5.5	5.5
North Carolina	—	1000/yr	1000/yr	1000/yr	1000/hr	1000/yr
North Dakota	—	2.75	5.5	5.5	6	6
Ohio	—	2.5	5	5	5.5	5.5
Oklahoma	2.5	2.5	6	6	6	6
Oregon	—	6	—	6	6.5	7
Pennsylvania [^]	450/yr	450/yr	900/yr	900/yr	990/yr	990/yr
Rhode Island	2.5	2.75	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
South Carolina	2.5	2.5	6	6	6	6
South Dakota	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tennessee	5.5	4	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5
Texas	—	—	7	7	7	7
Utah	—	2	—	4	4	4
Vermont [^]	—	2/day; 350/yr	—	4	5.5	5.5
Virginia	—	3	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Washington	—	450/yr	—	1000/yr	1000/yr	1000/yr
West Virginia	2.4	—	3.2	3.5	3.5	3.7
Wisconsin	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wyoming	—	—	—	—	—	—
States ≥ 5 hr/day or ≥ 900 hr/yr:	5	5	22	32	36	36

Note: [^] State did not participate in the 2006 online survey; data is as of 2006 “—” indicates state does not have requirement in this category
LD= Local Decision

Table 4

State Policies and District Practices Regarding Year-Round Schools — 2008

State	Policy on Year-Round Schools	Districts with Year-Round Schools	Definitions
Alabama	—	1	AR: No fewer than number of days required between July 1 and June 30 of each school year and in which no vacation, including summer, lasts more than six (6) weeks.
Alaska	—	A few	
Arizona	—	Not reported	
Arkansas	Yes	4	
California	Yes	130	
Colorado	—	18	FL: At least 180 days of instruction vs. 8 or 9 consecutive months attendance.
Connecticut	—	Not reported	
District of Columbia	—	—	
Delaware	—	2	
Florida	Yes	4	
Georgia	—	5	HI: Operates on a multi-track year-round system.
Hawaii*	—	—	
Idaho	—	4	
Illinois	Yes	23 Districts/94 Schools	
Indiana	—	6	
Iowa	Yes	5	KS: Alternative school calendars are approved by the Commissioner of Education.
Kansas	—	Local decision	
Kentucky	—	27	
Louisiana	—	3	
Maine	—	—	
Maryland	Yes	Not reported	MI: International baccalaureate academy that provides 1160 hours of instruction; summer break no greater than six weeks
Massachusetts	Local decision	Not reported	
Michigan	Yes	2	
Minnesota	Yes	134	
Mississippi	—	Not reported	
Missouri [^]	—	1	
Montana	—	Not reported	
Nebraska	—	A few	
Nevada	—	4	
New Hampshire	—	Not reported	
New Jersey	—	LD	
New Mexico	Yes	2	
New York	—	Not reported	
North Carolina	Yes	19 (12 charter schools)	
North Dakota	—	0	
Ohio	Yes	No data	OK: At least ten (10) months of four (4) weeks during which the school shall actually be in session and instruction offered for not less than one hundred eighty (180) days.
Oklahoma	—	4	
Oregon	—	1-2	
Pennsylvania [^]	Yes	Not reported	
Rhode Island	—	Not reported	
South Carolina	—	Not reported	TN: 200 day calendar. TX: operates during the greater part of ten months and up to twelve calendar months of the year.
South Dakota	Yes	Not reported	
Tennessee	Yes	13	
Texas	Yes	17	
Utah	—	7	
Vermont [^]	—	Not reported	
Virginia	Yes	7	
Washington	—	11	
West Virginia	Yes	1	
Wisconsin	—	2	
Wyoming	—	—	
Total	17 with policy	30 states	

Note: [^] State did not participate in the 2008 online survey; data shown is as of 2006; “—” indicates state does not have requirement in this category; LD= Local Decision; *Hawaii - 2 Elementary and 2 Middle Schools that operate on a multi-track system; although these schools may operate year-round, the multi-track schedule does not operate on a year-round schedule; different cohorts are starting and ending at different times, but the total number of days is the same for each cohort.

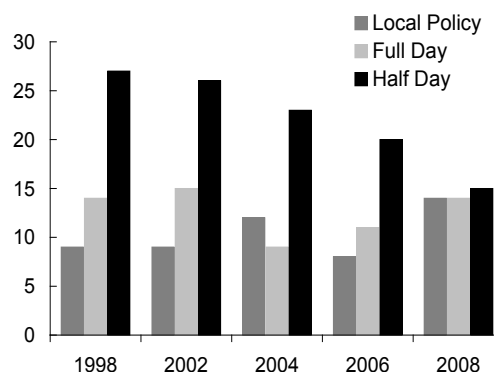
School Attendance Policies

This section includes questions related to school attendance policies and specifically kindergarten requirements. For additional information on pre-school policies, please refer to the 2006 *Key State Policies* report.

Kindergarten Programs: State Policies

Table 5

The 2007-08 data reveal that the number of states requiring districts to offer kindergarten programs continues to rise (45 states in 2008) as does the proportion of required full-day kindergarten programs to minimum half-day kindergarten programs. Currently 14 states require full-day programs, 16 states require minimum half-day programs, and 14 require either of the two. Only six states report no policy on the matter.

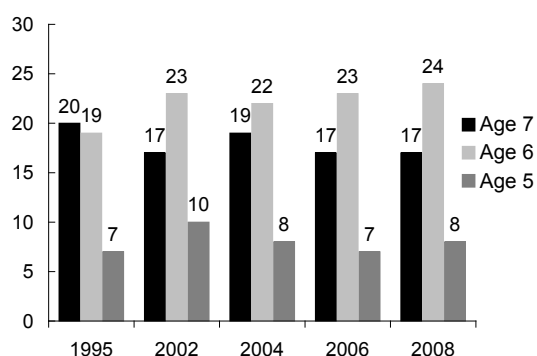


Student Attendance Requirements

Table 6

Age Students Must Enter School and Minimum Age of Departure

By a certain age, education is compulsory for American children. State policies on this age vary from five to seven years old. In 2007-08, many states (17) selected age 7 as the age by which students must enter school. A notable 79 percent (41 states) have chosen either age 6 or age 7 as this compulsory age. This trend has remained relatively constant for over 15 years.



Cut-off Date for Kindergarten

To be eligible to enroll in kindergarten, students must reach an entrance age by a state-determined cut-off date. In 47 states, students must be at least 5 years old to enter kindergarten, and four states allow districts to select the age of entrance. Nearly half of all states (24) have selected kindergarten cut-off dates on or before September 1.

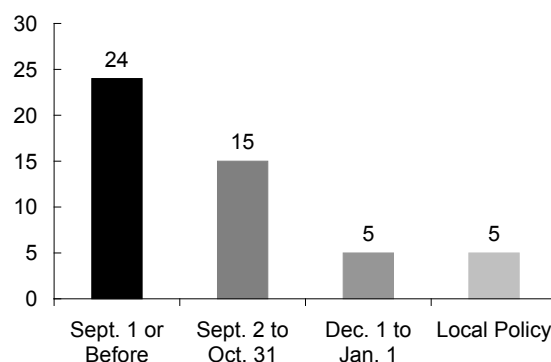


Table 5

State Kindergarten Programs — 2008

State	Full-Day Kindergarten Program Required	Half-Day Kindergarten Program Required	Students Required to Attend
Alabama	Yes	—	—
Alaska	—	—	—
Arizona	—	Yes	—
Arkansas	Yes	—	Yes*
California	Either Full- or Half-Day		—
Colorado	Either Full- or Half-Day		—
Connecticut	—	Yes	—
District of Columbia	Yes	—	Yes
Delaware	Yes*	—	Yes
Florida	Yes	—	—
Georgia	Yes	—	—
Hawaii	Yes	—	—
Idaho	—	—	—
Illinois	—	Yes	—
Indiana	—	Yes	—
Iowa	No	No	—
Kansas	Either Full- or Half-Day		—
Kentucky	—	Yes	—
Louisiana	Yes	—	—
Maine	—	Yes	—
Maryland	Yes	N/A	Yes
Massachusetts	—	Yes	—
Michigan	Either Full- or Half-Day		—
Minnesota	Either Full- or Half-Day		No
Mississippi	Yes	—	—
Missouri [^]	—	Yes	—
Montana	—	Yes	—
Nebraska	Either Full- or Half-Day		—
Nevada	—	Yes	—
New Hampshire	—	—	—
New Jersey	Either Full- or Half-Day		—
New Mexico	—	Yes	Yes
New York	—	—	—
North Carolina	Yes	—	—
North Dakota	—	—	—
Ohio	Either Full- or Half-Day*		Yes
Oklahoma	Either Full- or Half-Day		Yes
Oregon	—	Yes	—
Pennsylvania [^]	—	—	—
Rhode Island	—	Yes	Yes
South Carolina	Yes	—	Yes
South Dakota	Either Full- or Half-Day*		—*
Tennessee	Yes	—	Yes
Texas	Either Full- or Half-Day		—
Utah	—	Yes	—
Vermont [^]	Either Full- or Half-Day		—
Virginia	Either Full- or Half-Day		Yes*
Washington	—	Yes	—
West Virginia	Yes	—	Yes
Wisconsin	—	Yes	—
Wyoming	Either Full- or Half-Day		—
Total	14	16	13

Note: [^] State did not participate in the 2008 online survey; data shown is as of 2006; “—” indicates state does not have requirement in this category; * Arkansas -- exception if parent signs a waiver; Delaware - exception if district granted a waiver; New Jersey - Abbott Districts only; Ohio - High poverty districts that receive special state funding are required to provide full day services; South Dakota - effective July 1, 2010, all schools must offer a Kindergarten program, and all children must attend a Kindergarten program. Virginia - students who are age 5 by September 30 must enroll in school. However, attendance may be delayed for one year if, in the opinion of the parent or guardian, the child is not mentally, physically, or emotionally prepared to attend school.

Table 6

Student Attendance Requirements — 2008

State	Age Students Must Enroll	Kindergarten Entrance Age	Kindergarten Cut-Off Date	Minimum age of Departure
Alabama	7	5	September 1	16 or waiver
Alaska	7	5	September 1	16
Arizona	6	5*	—	16 or completed 10th grade
Arkansas	5	5	September 15	17
California	6	5	December 2	18
Colorado	6	5	—	17
Connecticut	7	5	January 1	18 or 16 w/ guardian consent
DC	5	5	September 30	18
Delaware	5	5	August 31	16
Florida	6	5	September 1	16 w/ written intent to withdraw
Georgia	6	5	September 1	16
Hawaii	6	5	January 1	18
Idaho	7	5	September 1	16
Illinois	7	5	September 1	17
Indiana	7	5	July 1	18
Iowa	6	5	September 15	16
Kansas	7	5	August 31	18 or 16/17 w/ waiver
Kentucky	6	5	October 1	16
Louisiana	7	5	September 30	17 w/ guardian consent
Maine	7	5	October 15	17, or 15 if student meets other criteria
Maryland	5	5	September 1	16
Massachusetts	6	Local decision	Local decision	16
Michigan	6	5	December 1	16
Minnesota	7	5	September 1	16
Mississippi	6	5	September 2	16
Missouri [^]	7	5	August 1	16
Montana	7	5	September 10	16 or completion of grade 8
Nebraska	6	5	October 15	18 or parental waiver
Nevada	7	5	September 30	18
New Hampshire	6	Local decision	Local decision	16 w/ guardian consent
New Jersey	6	Local decision	Local decision	16
New Mexico	5	5	September 1	17-18
New York	6	5	December 1	16
North Carolina	7	5	October 16	16 or waiver
North Dakota	7	5	August 31	16
Ohio	6	5	August 1/September 30*	18
Oklahoma	5	5	September 1	18
Oregon	7	5	September 1	18
Pennsylvania [^]	8	Local decision	Local decision	17 or waiver
Rhode Island	6	5	September 1	16
South Carolina	5	5	September 1	16
South Dakota	6*	5	September 1	16*
Tennessee	6	5	September 30	18
Texas	6	5	September 1	18
Utah	6	5	September 1	18
Vermont [^]	6	5	Local decision	16
Virginia	5	5*	September 30*	18*
Washington	8	5	August 31	16 w/ guardian consent
West Virginia	6	5	September 1	16
Wisconsin	6	5	September 1	18
Wyoming	7	5	September 15	16 or completed 10th grade
Total	Age 5: 8 states; Age 6: 24; Age 7: 17			
		Age 5: 47 states		

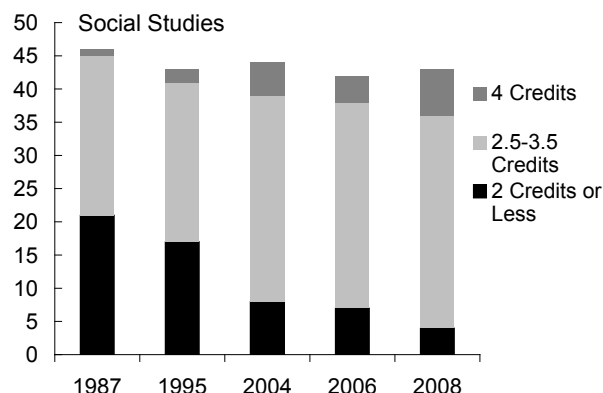
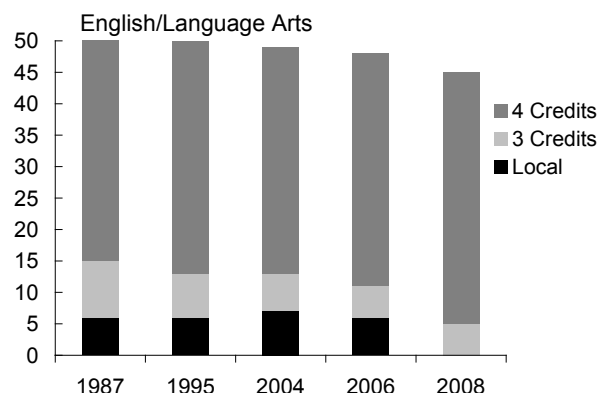
Note: ^ State did not participate in the 2008 online survey; data shown is as of 2006; “—” indicates no longer has a policy; * Arizona - Age 5 by September 1st; however, local governing board may admit children who have not reached the required age if determined to be in the best interest of the children; Ohio - Districts option; South Dakota - effective July 1, 2010, children must be enrolled and attend Kindergarten if age 5 by September 1 and must remain in school until age 18; Virginia - School divisions may allow students with birthdays between October 1 and December 31 to enroll if a readiness evaluation is administered. Students must remain in school until age 18, unless excused by a court or a local school board.

Graduation Requirements

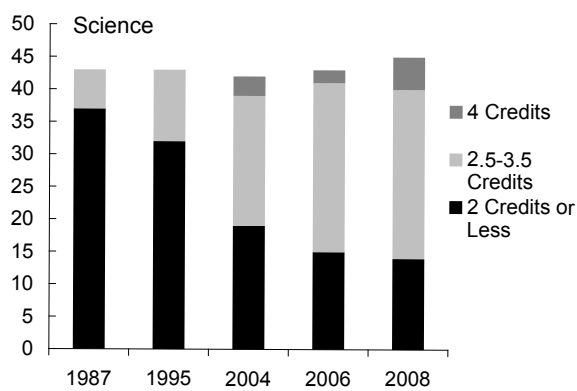
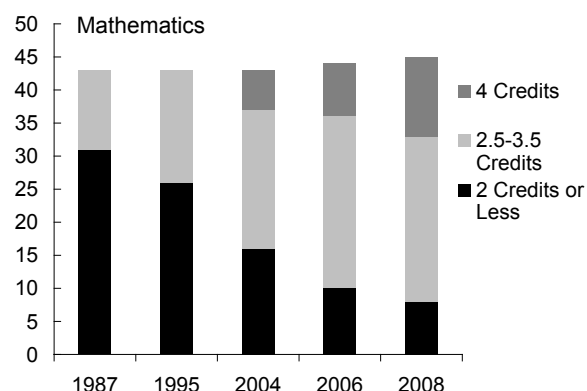
High School Course Credit Requirements

Table 7

Of 50 states and District of Columbia, 45 have a state policy on the minimum Carnegie credits required for high school graduation (a single Carnegie credit is assigned to an academic course consisting of two semesters). There is great variation among these state policies, however. The total number of Carnegie credits required for graduation range from 1.5 Carnegie units in one state to 24 in another.



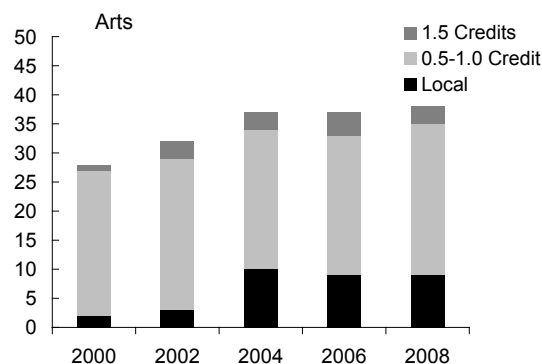
Most states delineate the number of credits required within each subject area. It is apparent that all states continue to place a heavy emphasis on English. Of the five subject areas tracked—English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and the Arts — 40 states require 4 or more English credits, 12 states require 4 or more Mathematics credits, 7 states require 4 or more credits in Social Studies, and 5 states require 4 or more credits in Science.



By comparing the change in credit requirements within subject areas across eight time points (1987, 1995, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, and 2008) the nationwide trends become apparent. Since 1987, Mathematics and Science requirements have notably increased. Over the past eight years, 31 states have adopted policies increasing requirements to three or more credits in Science, and 37 states have increased requirements to three or more credits in Mathematics. States also increased emphasis on Social Studies. English requirements remained fairly constant; now all states require at least 3 credits in English.

Arts Requirements

In 2008, 29 states reported requirements in Arts while 28 reported an Arts requirement in 2006. The reported credit requirements by these states vary from 0.5 to 4.5 credits per state. Overall, Arts requirements have remained fairly constant since 2000; the increase between 2002 and 2004 as shown in the graph represents primarily an increase in states reporting Arts requirements as a local decision.



Specific Courses in Mathematics and Science

Table 8

As table 8 shows, 26 states reported requiring specific Math courses, and 21 states reported requiring specific Science courses. The most reported specific Math course was Algebra (24 states), and the most reported specific Science course was Biology (15 states).

Mathematics		Science	
Algebra	24	Biology	15
Geometry	13	Physical Science	8
Above Algebra I	11	Lab. Requirement	7

Additional Specific Course Requirements

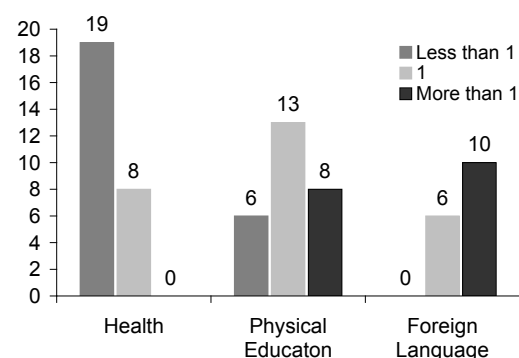
Table 9

States reported additional course requirements for high school graduation in three main subject areas: Social Studies; Language Arts/Communication; and Technology/Life Skills. Course requirements in History (World, U.S., and state-specific) appear in 30 states. A similar number (31) of states require a course on Government with the number of credits varying from 0.5 to 4 credits. Communication, Composition and Speech courses are required in eight states. Courses that offer training in Computer Operation, Applications and Technology were equally as common.

Health, Physical Education, and Foreign Language

Table 10

Forty-three states have a requirement in Health, Physical Education, or Foreign Language. High school course credit requirements for Health were reported in 38 states, for Physical Education in 40 states, and in Foreign Language in 16 states. Health credits vary from 0.5 to 1 credit, and Physical Education credits vary from 0.5 to 2 credits. Of the 16 states reporting Foreign Language requirements, most require two credits.



Advanced Diploma

Table 11

An “advanced diploma” requires students to complete additional credits of specific advanced courses. Fourteen states report a policy on the minimum required credits in core curriculum for an advanced diploma. The total has increased by two states from the 2006 report. The total number of credits required ranges from 20 to 25 (core subjects plus electives).

High School Exit Examinations

Table 12

Twenty-eight states reported policies requiring students to take and pass an achievement test in order to qualify for high school graduation. Table 12 identifies the states with a required exam, the name of the assessment, and the type of test. In 2008, all states requiring an exam use a criterion-referenced test.

Additional Information

Additional information on graduation requirements and high school exit examinations may be found in *Education Week's Diplomas Count* publication¹ and the Center on Education Policy's *State High School Exit Exams* publication².

Other Graduation Requirements

Table 13

For the first time in 2008, Key State Education Policies collected information on other Graduation Requirements in addition to the curriculum requirements reported elsewhere. Eight states reported other Graduation Requirements including community service hours, graduation projects, and minimum GPA and attendance requirements. States were also asked to report the maximum number of years that students may take to fulfill requirements. The majority of states report an allowance of four or five years or until age 21 for students to complete requirements.

Table 7

State Credit Requirements for High School Graduation, Core Academic Subjects — 2008

State	English	Math	Science	Social Studies	Arts	Total
Alabama	4	4	4	4	0.5	24
Alaska	4	2	2	3		21
Arizona	4	3	2	3	1	20
Arkansas	4	4	3	3	0.5	22
California	3	2	2	3	1	13
Colorado	LD	LD	LD	LD	LD	LD
Connecticut	4	3	2	3	1	20
District of Columbia	4	4	4	4	1	24
Delaware	4	3	3	3		22
Florida	4	3 or 4*	3	3	2	24 or 18*
Georgia	4	4	4	3		23
Hawaii	4	3	3	4		22
Idaho	9*	4	4	5	2	42*
Illinois	3	3	1	2		18
Indiana	8*	6	6*	6*		40*
Iowa	LD	LD	LD	1.5	LD	1.5 & LD
Kansas	4	3	3	3	1	21
Kentucky	4	3	3	3	1	22
Louisiana	4	3	3	3		23
Maine	4	2	2	2	1	16
Maryland	4	3	3	3	1	21
Massachusetts	LD	LD	LD	LD	LD	
Michigan	4	4	3	3	1	LD
Minnesota	4	3	3	3.5	1/LD	21.5
Mississippi	4	3	3	3	1	20
Missouri^	4	2	2	2	1	22
Montana	4	2	2	2	1	20
Nebraska	LD	LD	LD	LD	LD	LD
Nevada	4	3	2	2	1	22.5
New Hampshire	4	3	2	2.5	0.5	20
New Jersey	4	3	3	3	1	22
New Mexico	4	4	3	3		24
New York	4	3	3	4	1	22
North Carolina	4	4	3	3	LD	20
North Dakota	LD	LD	LD	LD	LD	
Ohio	4	3	3	3	LD	20
Oklahoma	4	3	3	3	1	23
Oregon	3	2	2	3	1	22
Pennsylvania^	LD	LD	LD	LD	LD	LD
Rhode Island	4	4	3	3		20
South Carolina	4	4	3	3		24
South Dakota	4	3	3	3	1	22
Tennessee	4	3	3	3		20
Texas	4	3	3	5	1	24
Utah	3	2	2	2.5	4.5	24
Vermont^	4	3	3	3	1	20
Virginia	4	3	3	3	1	22
Washington	3	3	2	2.5	1	20
West Virginia	4	4	3	4		24
Wisconsin	4	2	2	3		21.5, local elect.
Wyoming	4	3	3	3	LD	22
TOTAL	3-4: 43 states	3-4: 36 states	3-4: 30 states	3-4: 34 states	1-2: 25 states	20-24: 39 states

Note: ^ State did not participate in the 2008 online survey; data shown is as of 2006; LD= Local Decision; *Florida - offers 3 programs (4-yr 24-credit, 3-yr 18-credit college prep, or 3-yr 18-credit career prep); *Idaho - Semester credits; *Indiana - semester credits

Table 8

Specific Courses Required for Graduation Credits in Mathematics and Science — 2008

State	Math Courses (credits)	Science Courses (credits)
Alabama	Algebra I (1); Geometry (1); Other (2)	Biology (1); Physical Science (1); Other (2)
Alaska		
Arizona	Three credits (3)	
Arkansas	Algebra I; Geom.; Algebra II, and one higher level (4)	Physical Science; Biology, Chemistry; Physics (3 total)
California	Algebra I	Biology (2); Physical Science (2)
Colorado		
Connecticut		
DC	Algebra I; Geometry; Algebra II	Lab Sciences (3)
Delaware		
Florida	Algebra (1)	Laboratory requirement (2-3)
Georgia	Algebra; Euclidean, Algebra II; Other (4)	Physical Science; Life Science; Other (4)
Hawaii	Pre-algebra and higher (3)	Various courses (3)
Idaho		Laboratory requirement (2)
Illinois		
Indiana	Algebra I (2), Algebra II (2), Geom. (2); or Integ. Math I (6)	Biology (2); Chemistry or Physics (2); Other (2)
Iowa		
Kansas	Algebraic and Geometric Concepts	Laboratory Requirement (1); Other General Science
Kentucky	Algebra (1); Geometry (1); Algebra II (1)	
Louisiana	Algebra I or equivalent	Biology (1)
Maine		Laboratory requirement (1)
Maryland	Algebra/Data Analysis (1); Geometry (1); Other (1)	Earth, Life, or Physical Science (2); Biology
Massachusetts		
Michigan	Algebra (1); Geometry (1); Algebra II (1); Other (1)	Biology (1); Physics or Chemistry (1)
Minnesota	Algebra, Geometry, Statistics/Probability (3)	Biology and two additional credits (3)
Mississippi	Algebra (1)	Biology (1)
Missouri [^]		
Montana	Local decision	Local decision
Nebraska	Local decision	Local decision
Nevada		
New Hampshire	Algebra I or equivalent	Physical Science; Biological Science
New Jersey		
New Mexico	Algebra (1); other (2)	Content Standards (2) one lab component
New York	Three credits (3)	Life Science (1); Physical Science (1); Other (1)
North Carolina	Algebra (1)	Biology (1)
North Dakota	Two credits (2)	Two credits (2)
Ohio		Life Science; Physical Science (1 each)
Oklahoma	Algebra I and two higher level courses (3)	Biology and two higher level courses (3)
Oregon		
Pennsylvania [^]		
Rhode Island		
South Carolina		Physical Science (1)
South Dakota	Algebra (1)	
Tennessee	Algebra; Geometry or Algebra II	Biology and one lab requirement above biology
Texas	Algebra; Algebra II, Geometry (1 each)	Biology, Chemistry, Physics; Integrated Physics (1 each)
Utah	Algebra/Applied Math 1; Geometry/Applied Math II	Earth Science; Biology; Chemistry; Physics (2 out of 4)
Vermont [^]		
Virginia	Algebra or higher-level courses (3)	Earth Science; Biology; Chemistry; Physics (3)
Washington	Algebra; Geometry; Algebra II; or Integrated (3)	
West Virginia	Algebra and 2 higher level courses (3)	Coordinated and Thematic Science
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		
TOTALS	Specific Courses: 26 states	Specific Courses: 21 states

Note: [^]State did not participate in the 2008 online survey; data shown is as of 2006.

Table 9

Specific Courses Required for Graduation Credits in Social Studies and Other Subjects — 2008

State	Social Studies (credits)	Language Arts/ Communications (credits)	Technology/Life Skills (credits)
Alabama	Courses comply with COS (4)	Comply with COS (4)	Computer Application (.5)
Arizona	World His./Geog. (1); American His (1); American Gov. (.5); Econ (.5)		
Arkansas	World His.; US His.; Civics/Gov.	Oral Communications (1/2)	Career Focus Courses (6)
California	Econ.; American Gov.		
Connecticut	Civics and American Gov. (.5)		
DC	Three credits (3)		
Delaware			Computer Literacy (1); Computer Pathway (3)
Florida	World His. (1); American His. (1); American Gov. (.5); Econ. (.5)		
Georgia	US His. (1); World His. (1); Gov. (.5); Econ. (.5)	American Lit./Composition (1)	Computer Technology (3)*
Hawaii	World His. (1); U.S. His. (1); History of Hawaii (.5)	English LA 1 and 2 (2)	Guidance (5)
Idaho		Speech or Debate (1)	
Illinois			Consumer Education
Indiana	World His./Geog. (2); US His. (2); US Gov. (1); Econ. (1)		Career/Technical (5)*
Iowa	US Gov. (.5); US His. (1)		
Kansas	World His. (1); US His. (1); KS His. and Gov. (.5); US Gov. (.5)	Literature; Communication	
Kentucky	US His., Econ., Gov., World Geog. and World Civilization		Individual Learning Plan (4)
Louisiana	American His. (1); Civics (.5); Free Enterprise (1)		
Maryland	US His., World His.; Gov. (1 each)		
Massachusetts	US History		
Michigan	Civics (.5); Econ. (.5); US His. and Geog. (1); World His. and Geog. (1)		
Minnesota	World His.; US His.; Gov.; Econ.; Geog. (3.5)		Local decision
Mississippi	US His.; World His.; US Gov. (1 each)		MS Studies (1); Comprehensive Health (.5); Keyboarding; Computer App
Missouri^	American Gov. (.5)		
Montana	Local Decision	Local Decision	Local Decision
Nebraska	Local Decision	Local Decision	Local Decision
Nevada	American Gov. (1); American History (1)		
New Hampshire	US and NH His. (1); US and NH Gov./Civics (0.5); World His./Geog. (.5); Econ. (.5)		Information/ Communication Tech. (.5)
New Jersey	US His. (2)		
New Mexico	US His.; Geog.; World His.; Gov.; Econ.; New Mexico His.	Communications Skills	Career Cluster or Workplace Readiness (1)*
New York	US His.; Gov. (.5); Econ. (.5)		
North Carolina	US His., Civics & Econ. (1 each)		
Ohio	American Gov. (.5); American His. (.5)		Electives (6)
Oklahoma	US His. (1); US Gov. (.5-1); OK His. (.5); World His. (.5-1); Geog. (.5-1); Econ.; Anthropology	Speech (1-2)*	Personal Financial Literacy
South Carolina	US Gov. (.5); Econ. (.5); US His. & Constitution (1); Other (1)		Computer Science (1)
South Dakota	US His. (1); US Gov. (.5); Geometry (.5); World His. (.5); Econ. (.5)	Writing (1.5); American Lit. (.5); Speech (.5)	
Tennessee	US His. (1); Gov. (.5); Economic (.5)		Lifetime Wellness (1)
Texas	World His. Studies (1); World Geog. Studies (1); US His. Studies (1); US Gov. (.5); Econ. (.5);		Communications Applications (1)
Utah	Geog. (.5); World Civilization (.5); US His. (1); US Gov. and Citizenship (.5)		General Financial Literacy (.5)
Vermont^	US His. and Gov. (1);		
Virginia	US and Virginia His. (1); US and Virginia Gov. (1); World His./Geog. (1)		
Washington	US His./Gov./Current affairs (2); Washington State His. (.5)		
West Virginia	US Studies to 1900, World Studies to 1900, 20th Century World History		Work-based learning; Career Courses (4)
Wisconsin			
Wyoming	History (1); American Gov. (1); Economics (1)		
TOTAL	40 states with requirements	11 states	18 states

Note: ^State did not participate in the 2008 online survey; data shown is as of 2006; COS= Course of Study; *Georgia - 3 units of Computer Technology and/or Foreign Language; Indiana - 5 credits of Career/Technical, World Languages, or Fine Arts; New Mexico - 1 unit in Career Cluster, Workplace Readiness, or Foreign Language; Oklahoma - College preparatory/work-ready curriculum requires 1 unit of fine arts or speech while Core curriculum requires 2 credits.

Table 10

Credit Requirements for Graduation: Health, Physical Education, Foreign Language — 2008

State	Health	Physical Education	Foreign Language
Alabama	.5	1	—
Alaska	1 total of Health and Physical Education		—
Arizona	—	—	—
Arkansas	.5	.5	—
California	—	2	1
Colorado	—	—	—
Connecticut	—	1	—
DC	0.75	0.75	2
Delaware	.5	1	—
Florida	.5 (Life Management)	1	2
Georgia	1	1	3*
Hawaii	.5	1	—
Idaho	1	Local Decision	Local Decision
Illinois	One semester	Daily PE required	Must be offered
Indiana	1	2	1
Iowa	Local Decision	Local Decision	Local Decision
Kansas	1 total of Health and Physical Education		—
Kentucky	.5	.5	Local Decision
Louisiana	.5	1.5	—
Maine	.5	1	Local Decision
Maryland	.5	.5	2*
Massachusetts	—	Local Decision	—
Michigan	1 total of Health and Physical Education		—
Minnesota	Local Decision	Local Decision	Local Decision
Mississippi	.5	—	—
Missouri [^]	—	1	—
Montana	1	PE included in Health	—
Nebraska	Local Decision	Local Decision	Local Decision
Nevada	.5	2	—
New Hampshire	0.5	1	—
New Jersey	3.75 total of Health and Physical Education		1
New Mexico	Standards must be addressed	1	1*
New York	.5	2	1
North Carolina	1 total of Health and Physical Education		2*
North Dakota	0.5	0.5	2
Ohio	.5	.5	Local Decision
Oklahoma	—	—	0-2*
Oregon	1	1	—
Pennsylvania [^]	—	—	—
Rhode Island	100 min/wk total of Health and Physical Education		—
South Carolina	36 weeks or 1 semester	1 (PE or Jr. ROTC)	1 (Foreign Lang. or CATE)
South Dakota	.5 total of Health or Physical Education		2
Tennessee	1 total of Health and Physical Education		2
Texas	1	1.5	2 (in same language)
Utah	.5	1.5	Local Decision
Vermont [^]	Local Decision	1.5	Local Decision
Virginia	2 total of Health and Physical Education		—
Washington	1	1	—
West Virginia	1	1	—
Wisconsin	.5	1.5	—
Wyoming	Local Decision	Local Decision	Local Decision
TOTAL	38 states	40 states	16 states

Note: [^]State did not participate in the 2008 online survey; data shown is as of 2006; "—" indicates state does not have a requirement in this category; PE= Physical Education; *Georgia - 3 units of Foreign Language and/or Computer Technology; Maryland - added option of 2 credits in American Sign Language; North Carolina - 2 credits in the same language; New Mexico - 1 unit in Career Cluster, Workplace Readiness, or Foreign Language; Oklahoma - Required for College-Preparatory/Work-Ready curriculum only

Table 11

Advanced Diploma: Credit Requirements for High School Graduation — 2008

State	Math	English	Arts	Social Studies	Science	Foreign Language	Total
Alabama	4	4	.5	4	4	2*	24
Hawaii	3	4	2	4	3	2	24
Indiana*	8	8	2	6	6	6	47
Kentucky	3	4	1	3	3		22
Missouri^	3	4	1	3	2		24
Nevada*	4	4	1	3	3		24
New Mexico	4				3		24
New York	3	4	1	4	3	1	22
Ohio*	3	4	1	3	3	3	20
Oklahoma	4	4	2	4	4	2	24
South Dakota	4	4	1	3	4	2	22
Tennessee	3	4	0	3	3	2	20
Texas	4	4	1	4	4	3	25
Virginia	4	4	1	4	4	3	24
TOTAL	14 states	13 states	12 states	13 states	14 states	10 states	14 states

^State did not participate in the 2008 online survey; data shown is as of 2006

Note: *Additional requirements (see below for specifics):

Alabama -- 2 credits in the same foreign language required for an advanced academic endorsement; .5 credit in Computer Applications;

0.5 credit in Health; 1 credit Physical Education; and 3.5 credits in Elective Credits;

Indiana -- 47 total semester credits; 2 additional math credits; 6-8 world language credits; 2 fine arts credits

Nevada -- 0.5 credit for Health Ed.; 0.5 credit for Use of Computers; and 2.0 of Physical Ed.;

Ohio -- 1 in business/technology; 2 additional credits in core areas; overall 3.5 on a 4.0 scale;

ACT composite score > 27 or an equivalent score of 1,210 on the SAT

Table 12

High School Exit Exam Requirements — 2008

State	Required	Name of Assessment	Test Type
Alabama	Yes	Alabama High School Graduation Exam	CRT
Alaska	Yes	Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying Examination	CRT
Arizona	No	Arizona's Instrument Measurement Standards	CRT
Arkansas	No		
California	Yes	California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)	CRT
Colorado	No		
Connecticut	No	Connecticut Academic Performance Test	
DC			
Delaware	No		
Florida	Yes	Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test	CRT
Georgia	Yes	Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHS GT)	CRT
Hawaii	No		
Idaho	Yes	Idaho State Achievement Test (ISAT)	CRT
Illinois	No		
Indiana	Yes*	Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress Plus (ISTEP+)	CRT
Iowa	No		
Kansas	No		
Kentucky	No		
Louisiana	Yes	Graduation Exit Exam (GEE)	CRT
Maine	No		
Maryland	Yes	Maryland High School Assessment	CRT
Massachusetts	Yes	Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System	CRT
Michigan	No		
Minnesota	Yes	End of Grade Exams	CRT
Mississippi	Yes	Functional Literacy Examination	
Missouri^	No		
Montana	No		
Nebraska	No		
Nevada	Yes	High School Proficiency Examination	CRT
New Hampshire	No		
New Jersey	Yes	High School Proficiency Assessment	CRT
New Mexico	Yes	NM High School Competency Exam	CRT
New York	Yes	Regents Comprehensive Examinations	CRT
North Carolina	Yes	End-of-Course (Algebra I, Bio., Eng. I, Civics & Econ., U.S. His.)	CRT
North Dakota	Yes	Terra Nova (CTB/5) and Test of Cognitive Skills	CRT
Ohio	Yes	Ohio Graduation Test	CRT
Oklahoma	Yes	Oklahoma Core Curriculum Test, End of Course Exams	CRT
Oregon	No		
Pennsylvania^	Yes	Pennsylvania System of School Assessment or Local Assessment	CRT
Rhode Island	Yes*	NECAP tests - mathematics, reading, and writing	CRT
South Carolina	Yes	High School Assessment Program	CRT
South Dakota	No		
Tennessee	Yes	Gateway Examinations	CRT
Texas	Yes*	Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS)	CRT
Utah	Yes	Utah Basic Skills Competency Test	CRT
Vermont^	No		
Virginia	Yes	Virginia Assessment Program End-of-Course Exam	CRT
Washington	Yes	Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL)	CRT
West Virginia	No		
Wisconsin	No		
Wyoming	No		
TOTAL	28 states		

Note: ^State did not participate in the 2008 online survey; data shown is as of 2006; CRT= Criterion-Referenced Test; *Indiana - beginning with the freshmen class of 2008-09, graduates will have to pass end-of-course exams in English and Algebra; Rhode Island - students must take the test and score "partially proficient." If they do not reach that score, additional evidence of proficiency will be required; state assessments are not the sole grounds to prohibit graduation; Texas - Currently students must still pass the TAKS. However, the state is phasing in end-of-course exams for 12 required courses which will replace the exit level TAKS.

Table 13

Other High School Graduation Requirements — 2008

State	Other Requirements	Max number of years student may take to fulfill requirements
Alabama		Depends on formula
Alaska		5 years
Arizona	—	Until age 21
Arkansas		4 years while under age 21
California		
Colorado	—	Until age 21
Connecticut		
DC	100 voluntary service hours	No maximum
Delaware		4 years or as specified by IEP
Florida	Cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale	4 years
Georgia	—	4.5 years for regular education students; 5.5 years for ELL/LEP students; based on IEP for SWD students
Hawaii		
Idaho		
Illinois		
Indiana		
Iowa		Until age 21
Kansas	1 unit of Fine Arts; 6 units of electives; additional requirements at the discretion of the LEA	
Kentucky	—	4 years
Louisiana	—	
Maine	—	
Maryland	Attendance, service learning, and any local school system requirements	Until age 21
Massachusetts	—	Until age 22
Michigan	—	No maximum*
Minnesota	—	Until Sept 1st after the student's 21st birthday
Mississippi		
Missouri [^]		
Montana		
Nebraska	Local decision	Until age 21
Nevada	Local decision approved by State; must align to K-12 standards	
New Hampshire	—	No maximum
New Jersey		
New Mexico	—	4 years
New York	—	
North Carolina	Graduation project	Until age 21
North Dakota		
Ohio		
Oklahoma		4 years
Oregon		
Pennsylvania [^]		
Rhode Island	Performance-based demonstrations of proficiency (e.g. portfolios, exhibitions) in six core subject areas: English, math, science, social studies, technology, and arts	No maximum
South Carolina		
South Dakota		
Tennessee	—	4 years and a summer
Texas	—	Until age 26
Utah		
Vermont [^]		
Virginia	One student-selected verified credit	Until age 20 for regular education students and age 22 for special education students
Washington	Complete "High School and Beyond Plan" and a "Culminating Project"	
West Virginia		
Wisconsin	—	Until age 21
Wyoming	Wyoming Body of Evidence	

Note: [^]State did not participate in the 2008 online survey; *Michigan - no statutory maximum number of years but school districts may receive state aid funding for students through the age of 20 only

State Content Standards

A total of 21 states reported policies regarding textbooks and curriculum materials for classrooms, as of fall 2008. Of these, five have a state policy defining state selection of textbooks and materials to be used, nine states recommended textbooks and materials to the local districts, and seven states either select or recommend textbooks and materials.

For additional information on state content standards, please refer to CCSSO's State Content Standards at:
<http://www.ccsso.org/content/pdfs/2006-07%20Content%20Standards%20FINAL.pdf>

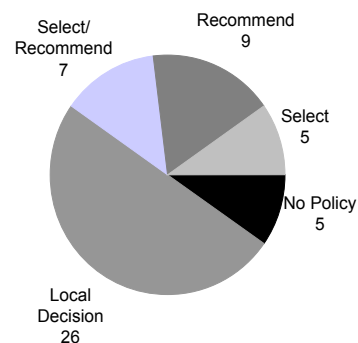


Table 14

State Policies on Textbooks and Standards — 2008

State	State Policy	If State Selects or Recommends Use of State Content Standards	Grades
Alabama	Selects/Recommends	Must meet at least 80% of standards to be core programs	K-12
Alaska	Local Decision		
Arizona	Local Decision		
Arkansas	Recommends	Standards developed prior to textbook selection and thus drive recommendations.	K-12
California	Recommends		K-8
Colorado	Local Decision		
Connecticut	Local Decision		
DC			
Delaware	Local Decision		
Florida	Recommends	Low performing Voluntary Pre-kindergarten (VPK) providers must choose from a recommended list. Others choose at their discretion in accordance with VPK standards.	PreK-12
Georgia	Recommends	Resources/textbooks are evaluated for alignment with content standards in the following areas: content/goals, rigor/relevance, assessment, tasks, organization/structure, and teacher support.	K-12
Hawaii	Recommends	Textbooks and materials must be aligned to the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards Benchmarks to be placed on the Recommended Instructional Materials Listing.	K-12
Idaho	Recommends	Textbooks and materials must meet a minimum 80% correlation with state standards.	K-12
Illinois	Local Decision		
Indiana	Recommends	All materials must incorporate and be aligned with state content standards.	K-12
Iowa	Local Decision		
Kansas	Local Decision		
Kentucky	Recommends	Textbooks are aligned with state content standards.	PreK-12
Louisiana	Selects/Recommends		K-12
Maine	Local Decision		
Maryland	Local Decision		
Massachusetts	Local Decision		
Michigan	Local Decision		
Minnesota	Local Decision		
Mississippi	Selects		
Missouri ^A			
Montana	Local Decision		
Nebraska	Local Decision		
Nevada			
New Hampshire	Local Decision		
New Jersey	Local Decision		
New Mexico	Selects	Materials aligned to the New Mexico Content Standards. Adopted materials required to meet a minimum of 90% alignment with New Mexico Curriculum Standards and criteria.	K-12
New York	Local Decision		
North Carolina	Selects		K-12
North Dakota	Local Decision		
Ohio	Local Decision		
Oklahoma	Selects	Oklahoma's constitutional State Textbook Committee bases its review of materials for adoption on correlation to the state core curriculum, the Priority Academic Student Skills (PASS).	K-12, 1-12
Oregon	Selects/Recommends	Oregon adopts criteria and a list of instructional materials from which the districts may select. Districts may choose independent adoption if they verify the materials conform to the state adopted criteria. Instructional Materials must be an organized system of instruction that constitute the major instructional vehicle and must meet at least 80% of the overall established criteria in order to be adopted by the State Board of Education for use in classrooms.	Varies
Pennsylvania ^A			
Rhode Island	Local Decision		
South Carolina	Selects/Recommends	Publishers correlate the materials to the state standards. The evaluation instrument used by the review panel is based on the state standards.	K-12
South Dakota	Local Decision		
Tennessee	Selects	Textbook commission uses standards for guiding choices.	K-12
Texas	Selects/Recommends		PK-12
Utah	Selects/Recommends		K-12
Vermont ^A			
Virginia	Recommends/Local Decision	Textbooks approved by the Virginia Department of Education are correlated to the Virginia Standards of Learning.	K-12
Washington	Local Decision	State standards use to measure alignment.	K-12
West Virginia	Selects/Recommends		K-12
Wisconsin	Local Decision		
Wyoming	Local Decision		
TOTAL	Select: 12 Recommend: 16 Local Decision: 26		

Note: ^AState did not participate in the 2008 online survey; data shown is as of 2006; New Jersey - have state standards but no policy on textbooks; K= Kindergarten

Teacher Preparation

Professional Development Aligned with State Content Standards

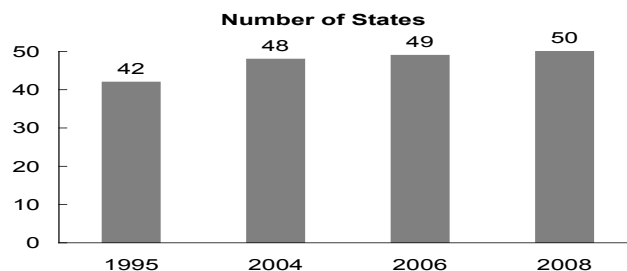
Table 15

Table 15 includes information collected for the first time in 2008 relating to state policies on the alignment of professional development with state content standards. Twenty-four states reported having a policy aligning professional development with state content standards, 20 states reported providing funding to schools or districts to support professional development that is aligned with state content standards, and 19 states reported enforcement of the provision of professional development aligned to standards through monitoring, evaluation, or required documentation.

Professional Development Requirements for Teacher License Renewal/Recertification

Table 16

In 2008, 50 states had a policy specifying requirements for professional development to renew teacher licenses. As the graph shows, a growing number of states have adopted professional development requirements, ranging from 41 states in 1992 to 50 states in 2008. The majority of these states require six semester credit hours of professional development, approximately every five years.



Additional Information on Teacher Preparation, Teacher Assessment, Subject Area Preparation, and Teacher Induction

Prior editions of the Key State Policies series of reports from CCSSO have included 50-state information in three areas that are not included in the 2008 report: (a) state policies regarding teacher assessment for new license, (b) state requirements for college course preparation in subject areas for elementary, middle, and secondary teacher licensure, and (c) policies on Induction programs for new teachers.

For the most current state policy information on these areas, please refer to the following sources: the database of the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC)³, the U.S. Department of Education, State Title II Higher Education reports⁴, and the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC)⁵.

Table 15
Professional Development Aligned With State Content Standards — 2008

State	State Policy	State Funding	State Enforcement
Alabama	Alabama Professional Development Standards; Alabama Quality Teaching Standards	√	√
Alaska			
Arizona	NSDC's Professional Development Standards		
Arkansas	A.C.A 6-17-707	√	√
California			
Colorado	There have been set rules, not statute, where the renewal credit is based on either the performance best criteria or subject content.		
Connecticut	The Department's publication, <i>Connecticut's Common Core of Teaching</i> , guides state policies related to the preparation, induction, and ongoing professional growth of teachers, including foundational skills and competencies that are aligned with the national INTASC standards.		√
DC			√
Delaware	Statewide recommended curriculum which is aligned to state content standards and professional development provided by DDOE based on recommended curriculum and state content standards	√	√
Florida	Florida Professional Development Protocol Standards	√	√
Georgia	Professional Standards Commission Rules	√	√
Hawaii	Hawaii Revised Statute 302A-321 Standards-based curriculum [(c) School complexes shall provide professional development]; HIDOE Profession HIOOE Professional Development Guidelines; HIOOE School Cod Certificated Personnel Policies and Regulations, Policy #5600	√	√
Idaho			√
Illinois			
Indiana		√	
Iowa	Chapter 83 Teacher/Administrator Quality Programs; Chapter 12 General Accreditation Standards (12.7)	√	√
Kansas	All professional development must be related to the content standards for the licensed content area(s) or professional education standards.		√
Kentucky	1.704 KAR 3:035 Section (1)	√	
Louisiana			
Maine		√	√
Maryland		√	√
Massachusetts	Massachusetts General Laws regarding training teachers to implement content frameworks, which are then tied to recertification, and state-wide professional development plan tied to curriculum frameworks	√	√
Michigan			
Minnesota	Minnesota's staff development statutes Minnesota Statutes 122A.60		
Mississippi			
Missouri [^]			
Montana			
Nebraska			
Nevada		√	√
New Hampshire	None	√	
New Jersey			
New Mexico	NM Administrative code 6.65.2	√	√
New York	Professional development activities/experiences are planned with the NYS Teacher Standards as underpinning		
North Carolina			
North Dakota	Local Decision		
Ohio	Senate Bill 2 Section 3319.61: educator standards board, in consultation with Ohio Board of Regents, to develop state standards aligned with the statewide academic content standards for students adopted pursuant to section 3301.079 of the Revised Code.	√	√
Oklahoma	A 2008 state law directed local professional development programs to be focused on five competencies, three of which necessitate alignment with state content standards.		√
Oregon			
Pennsylvania [^]			
Rhode Island			
South Carolina	Provisos 1A.32 and 1A.44 addressing Professional Development Standards Implementation (PDSI)	√	√
South Dakota			
Tennessee	State has a program to train according to standards but has not established as a governing rule for the agency.		
Texas	At least 80% of the CPE activities required for renewal should be directly related to the certificate(s) being renewed and focus on the standards required for the initial issuance of the certificate(s).		
Utah			
Vermont [^]			
Virginia	Strong effort to align professional development with content standards. High-Quality Professional Development Criteria used as guidance	√	
Washington		√	
West Virginia	High Quality Staff Development Aligned with State Standards		
Wisconsin	Needs assessment, school improvement plans, and impact of professional development are based on student achievement aligned to state content standards.	√	
Wyoming			

Note: [^]State did not participate in the 2008 online survey

Table 16

Professional Development Requirements for Teacher Licensure Renewal/Recertification — 2008

State	How Often	Criteria
Alabama	Every 5 years	3 yrs educational experience and 5 CEU of PD; or 3 semester hours; or 5 CEUs and 3 semester hours; or 6 semester hours
Alaska	Every 5 years	6 semester credits, 3 in upper/graduate levels
Arizona	Every 6 years	180 hrs of PD or 12 semester hrs
Arkansas	Every 5 years	60 hrs of PD per year
California	Every 5 years	150 hrs
Colorado	Every 5 years	6 semester hrs or 90 PD hrs
Connecticut	Every 5 years	6 graduate credits
DC	Every 4 years	
Delaware	Every 5 years	90 hrs
Florida	Every 5 years	6 semester hours or 120 PD units
Georgia	Every 5 years	6 semester hrs; 10 hrs approved professional learning units (PLU); successful background checks; no more than 1 unsatisfactory performance appraisal in 3-yrs
Hawaii	Every 5 years	
Idaho	Every 5 years	6 semester hrs or 3 semester hrs and 3 inservice credits
Illinois	Every 5 years	8 semester hrs, 24 continuing ed units; 120 PD units
Indiana	Every 5 years	Varies by license
Iowa	Every 5 years	Six credits
Kansas	Every 5 years	160 PD points including at least 80 semester hrs at BA level; 120 PD points at M.A. level
Kentucky	Every 5 years	Varies by license
Louisiana	Every 5 years	150 Continuing Learning Units
Maine	Every 2 to 5 years**	Varies by license
Maryland	Every 5 years	Varies by license
Massachusetts	Every 5 years	Focus on academic studies/content knowledge. See http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr44.html
Michigan	Every 5 years	6 semester hrs or 18 SB CEU
Minnesota	Every 5 years	125 PD hrs
Mississippi	Every 5 years	10 CEUs or 5 CEUs and 3 semester hrs or 6 semester hrs
Missouri^	After the first 4 years	30 hrs, 2 yrs mentoring
Montana	Every 5 years	60 units every 5 years
Nebraska	Every 5, 7, or 10 years**	PD is required for continuing employment, but is not required to renew certificate.
Nevada	Every 5 to 6 years	6 semester hours for renewal period (5-6 years)
New Hampshire	Every 3 years	45 hrs plus 30 hrs per certification content area
New Jersey	None	
New Mexico	After 5 or 9 years**	Employer's recommendation for renewal; If for licensure advancement, submit a PD Dossier for review.
New York	Every 5 years	175 hrs. for all professional certificate holders, approved by employing public school; reduced requirement for those not employed by public school
North Carolina	Every 5 years	15 credits or 10 semester hours every 5 years, including 3 credits in reading methods for K-8 teachers and 3 credits in academic subject area for all teachers.
North Dakota	Every 5 years	4 semester hours every 5 years
Ohio	Every 5 years	6 semester hours or 18 CEUs every five years as approved by the Local Professional Development Committee of the employing school or school district
Oklahoma	Every 5 years	PD is required annually to maintain employment. State regulations require 75 PD points in five years.
Oregon	Every 3 or 5 years	125 PD units
Pennsylvania^	Every 5 years	On-going PD, 180 hours
Rhode Island	Every 5 years	Completion of individual PD plan
South Carolina	Every 5 years	6 credit hrs
South Dakota	Every 1, 5 or 10 years	6 semester credits
Tennessee	Every 10 years.	http://www.state.tn.us/education/lic/rprf.shtml
Texas	Every 5 years	150-200 hrs
Utah	Every 3 to 7 years**	Varies by license
Vermont^	Every 7 years	
Virginia	Every 5 years	180 PD points
Washington	Every 5 years	150 clock hours
West Virginia	Every 3 to 5 years	6 semester hrs
Wisconsin	Every 3, 5, or 10 years	Varies by license
Wyoming	Varies	Varies

Note: ^Did not participate in the 2008 online survey; data shown is as of 2006; *Variations in criteria; **Varies by type of license; PD= Professional Development; Indiana -- 90 hours professional growth units every 5 years or 6 semester hours from an accredited higher education program or combination of Continuing Renewal Credits (CRUs) from approved professional development provider every 5 years. For Life licenses, nothing is required for renewal. Kentucky -- 1st 5-yr renewal: 15 grad hrs; 2nd 5-yr renewal: Approved Master's program or approved Fifth year program (32 graduate hrs); Subseq. 5-yr renewals: 3 yrs of classroom teaching during last 5-yrs or 6 sem. hours of additional graduate credit. Maryland -- 6 credits during the first five years to move from Standard Professional Certificate (SPC) I to SPC II; Master's degree or equivalent (36) credits to move to Advanced Professional Certificate (APC); 6 additional credits for renewal of APC; 6 credits for reinstatement. Michigan -- Prov: 10 hrs for 1st, 18 for 2nd; Prof: 6 hrs or 18 SB-CEUs. Ohio -- 6 semester hours or 180 contact hours CEUs or equivalent activities approved by local professional development committees. Second 5 yr. renewal requires masters degree or equivalent in graduate hrs. Utah -- Level 1: professional development directed by the local school district. Level 2: three years experience and 100 professional development points over 5 years; level 3: 3 years experience and 100 professional development points over 7 years. Wisconsin -- Initial Educator License - advance to the professional educator stage through a 3 to 5 year professional development plan (PDP); Professional Educator License -- renewable through a 5 year PDP or, if licensed prior to August 2004, an option to renew through 6 credits; Master Educator License -- successful completion of the Wisconsin Master Educator Assessment Process or the NBPTS process.

Student Assessment

Growth of Student Assessment Programs

Table 17-19

CCSSO annually collects information on statewide assessment programs. This report contains the latest data available on state assessment as of the 2007-08 academic year. As mandated by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2000, all states have in place assessment programs in Language Arts and Mathematics, which continues a trend identified by Key State Education Policies in the 1980s. As shown in these tables, the number of states with policies requiring statewide student testing, as well as the number of subjects and grades assessed, has increased since that time.

Assessments by Subject

In 2008, all states required statewide assessments in Mathematics and Language Arts, and 47 states have assessments in place in Science (with the remaining states having tests under development).

Trends	Number of States						
	1984	1994	1999	2001	2004	2006	2008
Language Arts	35	44	48	49	51	51	51
Mathematics	34	45	48	49	51	51	51
Science	13	30	33	36	43	47	47

Type of Test

Statewide assessments are increasingly moving to standards-based assessment. Largely due to the NCLB act, criterion-referenced tests are much more prevalent than the norm-referenced test for English/Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science.

Trends	Number of Assessments		
	Language Arts*	Mathematics	Science
Criterion-Referenced	82	79	65
Norm-Referenced	12	12	4
Augmented Norm-Referenced	4	5	2

*Reading, Writing Assessment

Most states administer standardized assessments once per year in selected subjects and specific grades to all students. States assessed student knowledge and learning at a variety of different grades. The state-by-state information in the following three tables show the grades assessed and a summary of the type of test.

For further information on Statewide Student Assessment Programs, please refer to CCSSO's Accountability Profiles website at: http://www.ccsso.org/projects/Accountability_Systems/State_Profiles/

Table 17

Statewide Student Assessment: English Language Arts, 2007-08

State	English Language Arts Assessment	Grades	Test Types
Alabama	Stanford Achievement Test, 10th edition	3-8	NRT
	Alabama Reading and Mathematics Test	3-8	CRT
	Alabama High School Graduation Exam	11	CRT
Alaska	Standards Based Assessments	3-10	CRT
	High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE)	10	CRT
	TerraNova CAT/6	5,7	NRT
Arizona	Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS)	3-8, 10	CRT
Arkansas	Benchmark Exams	3-8	CRT
	Literacy Exam	11	CRT
California	California Standard Tests (CSTs)	2-11	CRT
	California Achievement Test CAT/6	3,7	NRT
	California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)	10	CRT
Colorado	Colorado Student Assessment Program	3-10	CRT
Connecticut	Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT)	3-8	CRT
	Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT)	10	CRT
DC	District of Columbia Comprehensive Assessment System	3-8, 10	CRT
Delaware	Delaware Student Testing Program (Reading)	2-10	NRT, CRT
	Delaware Student Testing Program (Writing)	3-10	NRT, CRT
Florida	Florida Comprehensive Reading Assessment Test	3-10	CRT, NRT
Georgia	Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT)	1-8	CRT
	Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHS GT)	11	CRT
	End of Course Test (EOCT)	EOC	CRT
Hawaii	Hawaii Content and Performance Standards II State Assessment	3-8, 10	Aug-NRT
Idaho	Idaho Standards Achievement Test	2-10	Aug-NRT
Illinois	Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT)	3-10	CRT
	Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE)	11	CRT
Indiana	Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress Plus (ISTEP+)	3-9	CRT
	Graduation Qualifying Exam	10	CRT
Iowa	Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS)	K-12	NRT
Kansas	Kansas State Assessment	3-8, HS	CRT
Kentucky	Kentucky Core Content Test	3-8, 10	CRT
Louisiana	Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP)	4-8	CRT
	Integrated Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (iLEAP)	3,5,6,7,9	NRT, CRT
	Graduation Exit Examination (GEE)	10,11	CRT
Maine	Maine Educational Assessment (MEA)	3-8	CRT
	SAT	HS	NRT
Maryland	Maryland School Assessments (MSA)	3-8	NRT/CRT
	Maryland High School Assessment	EOC	CRT
Massachusetts	Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS)	3-8, 10	CRT
Michigan	Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP)	3-8	CRT
	Michigan Merit Examination	11	CRT
Minnesota	Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments-Series II (MCA-II)	3-8, 10	CRT
Mississippi	Mississippi Curriculum Test	2-8	CRT
	Subject Area Testing Program	EOC	CRT
Missouri	Missouri Assessment Program (MAP)	3-8, EOC- English II	Aug-NRT
Montana	Montana Comprehensive Assessment System (MontCAS)	3-8, 10	CRT
Nebraska	School-based Teacher-led Assessment and Reporting System (STARS) (Until 2009-2010)	3-8, 11	CRT
Nevada	Iowa Test of Basic Skills	4,7	NRT
	Iowa Test of Educational Development	10	NRT
	Criterion-Referenced Tests	3-8	CRT, Writing
	High School Proficiency Examination	10-12	CRT, Writing
New Hampshire	New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP)	3-8	CRT
	New Hampshire Educational Improvement Assessment Program (NHEIAP)	10	CRT
	New England Common Assessment Program (pilot)	11	CRT

Note: NRT= Norm-referenced test; CRT= Criterion-referenced test; Aug-NRT= Augmented Norm-referenced test; EOC= End of Course; EOI= End of Instruction; CIM= Certificate of Mastery

Table 17

Statewide Student Assessment: English Language Arts, 2007-08

State	English Language Arts Assessment	Grades	Test Types
New Jersey	New Jersey Skills & Knowledge Assessment	3-7	CRT
	Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment (GEPA)	8	CRT
	High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA)	11	CRT
New Mexico	New Mexico Student Assessment Program	3-9	CRT
	New Mexico High School Competency Examination	10	CRT
New York	English Language Arts Test	3-8	CRT
	High School Regents Exam	EOC	CRT
North Carolina	End-of-Grade Reading Comprehension	3-8	CRT
	End of Course Test	EOC	CRT
	NC Competency Test	9	CRT
	High School Comprehensive Tests	10	CRT
North Dakota	North Dakota State Assessment	3-8, 11	CRT
Ohio	Ohio Achievement Test	3-8	CRT
	Ohio Proficiency Test	9	CRT
	Ohio Graduation Test	10	CRT
Oklahoma	Oklahoma Core Curriculum Tests	3-8, EOI	CRT
Oregon	TESA Knowledge and Skills	3-8, CIM	CRT
Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)	3-8, 11	CRT
Rhode Island	New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP)	3-8	CRT
	New Standards Reference Exams	11	CRT
South Carolina	Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT)	3-8	CRT
	High School Assessment Program	10	CRT
	End of Course Examination Program (EOCEP)	EOC	CRT
South Dakota	Dakota Step (CRT only 2008)	3-8, 11	Aug-NRT
	Dakota Assessment of Content Standards (DACS)	2-12	CRT
	Achievement Series Assessments	1-12	CRT
Tennessee	Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program Achievement Tests	3-8	CRT
	Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program Gateway Tests	EOC	CRT
Texas	Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS)	3-11	CRT
Utah	Criterion Reference Tests	3-11	CRT
	Utah Basic Skills Competency Tests	10	CRT
Vermont	New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP)	3-8	CRT
	New Standards Reference Exams (NSRE)	10	CRT
	Vermont Developmental Reading Assessment (VT-DRA)	2	Performance
Virginia	Standards of Learning Assessments	3-8, EOC	CRT
Washington	Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL)	3-8, 10	CRT
West Virginia	West Virginia Educational Standards Tests (WESTEST)	3-8, 10	CRT
	Writing Assessment	4,7,10	CRT
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Knowledge & Concepts Examinations (WKCE)	3-8, 10	CRT
Wyoming	Proficiency Assessments for Wyoming Students (PAWS)	3-8, 11	CRT

Note: NRT= Norm-referenced test; CRT= Criterion-referenced test; Aug-NRT= Augmented Norm-referenced test; EOC= End of Course; EOI= End of Instruction; CIM= Certificate of Mastery

Table 18

Statewide Student Assessment: Mathematics 2007-08

State	Math Assessment	Grades	Test Types
Alabama	Stanford Achievement Test, 10th edition	3-8	NRT
	Alabama Reading and Mathematics Test	3-8	CRT
	Alabama High School Graduation Exam	11	CRT
Alaska	Standards Based Assessments	3-10	CRT
	High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE)	10	CRT
	TerraNova CAT/6	5,7	NRT
Arizona	Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS)	3-8,10	CRT
Arkansas	Benchmark Exams	3-8	CRT
	End of Course Exams	HS EOC	CRT
California	California Standard Tests (CSTs)	2-7, 8-11 EOC	CRT
	California Achievement Test CAT/6	3,7	NRT
	California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)	10	CRT
Colorado	Colorado Student Assessment Program	3-10	CRT
Connecticut	Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT)	3-8	CRT
	Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT)	10	CRT
DC	District of Columbia Comprehensive Assessment System	3-8, 10	CRT
Delaware	Delaware Student Testing Program	2-10	NRT, CRT
Florida	Florida Comprehensive Mathematics Assessment Test	3-10	CRT, NRT
Georgia	Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT)	1-8	CRT
	Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHS GT)	11	CRT
	End of Course Test (EOCT)	EOC	CRT
Hawaii	Hawaii Content and Performance Standards (HCPS) II (SAT-9 based)	3-8, 10	Aug-NRT
Idaho	Idaho State Achievement Test (ISAT)	2-10	Aug-NRT
Illinois	Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT)	3-8	CRT
	Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE)	11	CRT
Indiana	Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress Plus (ISTEP+)	3-9	CRT
	Graduation Qualifying Exam	10	CRT
Iowa	Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS)	K-12	NRT
Kansas	Kansas State Assessment	3-8, 11	CRT
Kentucky	Kentucky Core Content Test	3-8, 11	CRT
Louisiana	Louisiana Educational Assessment Program	4-8	CRT
	Integrated Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (iLEAP)	3,5,6,7,9	NRT, CRT
	Graduation Exit Examination (GEE)	10,11	CRT
Maine	Maine Educational Assessment (MEA)	3-8	CRT
	SAT and math augmentation	HS	Aug-NRT
Maryland	Maryland School Assessments (MSA)	3-8	NRT/CRT
	Maryland High School Assessment	EOC	CRT
Massachusetts	Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS)	3-8, 10	CRT
Michigan	Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP)	3-8	CRT
	Michigan Merit Examination	11	CRT
Minnesota	Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments-Series II (MCA-II)	3-8, 11	CRT
Mississippi	Mississippi Curriculum Test	2-8	CRT
	Subject Area Testing Program (SATP)	HS EOC	CRT
Missouri	Missouri Assessment Program (MAP)	3-8, EOC Algebra	Aug-NRT
Montana	Montana Comprehensive Assessment System (MontCAS)	3-8, 10	CRT
Nebraska	School-Based Teacher-Led Assessment and Reporting System (STARS) (Until 2010-11)	3-8, 11	NRT
Nevada	Iowa Test of Basic Skills	4,7	NRT
	Iowa Test of Educational Development	10	NRT
	Criterion-referenced tests	3-8	CRT
	High School Proficiency Examination	10-12	CRT
New Hampshire	New England Common Assessment Program	3-8	CRT
	New Hampshire Educational Improvement Assessment Program (NHEIAP)	10	CRT
	New England Common Assessment Program (pilot)	11	CRT

Note: NRT= Norm-referenced test; CRT= Criterion-referenced test; Aug-NRT= Augmented Norm-referenced test; EOC= End of Course; EOI= End of Instruction; CIM= Certificate of Mastery

Table 18

Statewide Student Assessment: Mathematics 2007-08

State	Math Assessment	Grades	Test Types
New Jersey	New Jersey Skills & Knowledge Assessment (NJ ASK)	3-7	CRT
	Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment (GEPA)	8	CRT
	High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA)	11	CRT
New Mexico	New Mexico Student Assessment Program	3-9	CRT
	New Mexico High School Competency Examination	10	CRT
New York	Mathematics Assessment Tests	3-8	CRT
	High School regents Examination	EOC	CRT
North Carolina	End-of-Grade Mathematics	3-8	CRT
	End of Course	EOC	CRT
	North Carolina Competency Test	9	CRT
	North Carolina HS Comprehensive Test	10	CRT
North Dakota	North Dakota State Assessment	3-8, 11	CRT
Ohio	Ohio Achievement Test	3-8	CRT
	Ohio Proficiency Test	9	CRT
	Ohio Graduation Test	10	CRT
Oklahoma	Oklahoma Core Curriculum Tests	3-8, HS EOC	CRT
	Stanford-9 Achievement Test	3	NRT
Oregon	TESA Knowledge and Skills Tests	3-8, CIM	CRT
Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)	3-8, 11	CRT
Rhode Island	New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP)	3-8	CRT
	New Standards Reference Exams	11	CRT
South Carolina	Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT)	3-8	CRT
	High School Assessment Program	10	CRT
	End of Course Examination Program (EOCEP)	EOC	CRT
South Dakota	Dakota STEP (CRT only 2008)	3-8, 11	Aug-NRT
	Dakota Assessment of Content Standards (DACS)	2-12	CRT
	Achievement Series Assessments	2-12	CRT
Tennessee	Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program Achievement Tests	3-8	CRT
	Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program Gateway Tests	EOC	CRT
Texas	Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS)	3-11	CRT
Utah	Utah Core Curriculum	3-11	CRT
	Utah Basic Skills Competency Tests	10	CRT
Vermont	New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP)	3-8	CRT
	New Standards Reference Exams	10	CRT
Virginia	Standards of Learning (SOL) Assessments	3-8, EOC	CRT
Washington	Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL)	3-8, 10	CRT
West Virginia	West Virginia Educational Standards Tests (WESTEST)	3-8, 10	CRT
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Knowledge & Concepts Examinations (WKCE)	3-8, 10	CRT
Wyoming	Proficiency Assessments for Wyoming Schools (PAWS)	3-8, 11	CRT

Student Assessment

Note: NRT= Norm-referenced test; CRT= Criterion-referenced test; Aug-NRT= Augmented Norm-referenced test; EOC= End of Course;
EOI= End of Instruction; CIM= Certificate of Mastery

Table 19

Statewide Student Assessment: Science, SY 2007-08

State	Science Assessment	Grades	Test Type
Alabama	Alabama Science Assessment (under development)	5, 7 (2008)	CRT
	Stanford Achievement Test, 10th Edition	5,7	NRT
	Alabama High School Graduation Exam	11	CRT
Alaska	Science Assessment (pilot testing)	4,8,10	CRT
Arizona	Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS)	4,8,10 (2007-08)	CRT
Arkansas	Under development		
California	STAR California Standard Tests	5,8,10 and 9-11, EOC	CRT
Colorado	Colorado Student Assessment Program	5,8,10	CRT
Connecticut	Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT)	5,8 (2008)	CRT
	Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT)	10	CRT
DC	Science Assessment (under development)	5, 8, Biology	
Delaware	Delaware Student Testing Program (DSTP)	4,6,8,11	CRT
Florida	Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test	5,8,11	CRT
	Criterion Referenced Competency Test	3-8	CRT
Georgia	Georgia High School Graduation Tests	11	CRT
	End of Course Test	EOC	CRT
Hawaii	Hawaii Content and Performance Standards (HCPS) II	5,7,11 (2007-08)	CRT
Idaho	Science Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT)	5,7,10	Aug-NRT
Illinois	Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT)	3-8	CRT
	Prairie State Achievement Examination	11	CRT
Indiana	Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress Plus (ISTEP+)	5, 7, Biology (EOC)	CRT
Iowa	Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS)	5 (2008), 8,11	NRT
Kansas	Kansas State Assessment	4,7,10 (2007-08)	CRT
Kentucky	Kentucky Core Content Test	4, 7,11	CRT
	Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP)	4,8	CRT
Louisiana	Integrated Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (iLEAP)	3,5,6,7,9	NRT, CRT
	Graduation Exit Examination (GEE)	10,11	CRT
Maine	Maine Educational Assessment	4,8	CRT
Maryland	Maryland School Assessment (MSA)	5,8 (2008)	CRT
Massachusetts	Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS)	5,8,9,10	CRT
Michigan	Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP)	5,8	CRT
	Michigan Merit Examination	11	CRT
Minnesota	Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments-Series II (MCA-II)	5,8,HS (2008)	CRT
Mississippi	Elementary/Middle Grades Science Assessments	5,8	CRT
	Mississippi Area Subject Testing	EOC	CRT
Missouri	Missouri Assessment Program (MAP)	3,7,Biology (EOC)	CRT
Montana	Montana Comprehensive Assessment System (MontCAS)	4,8,11	NRT
	Montana's Criterion Referenced Test	4,8,10 (2008)	NRT
Nebraska	School-Based Teacher-Led Assessment and Reporting System (Until 2011-12)	4 or 5,8,11	CRT
Nevada	Criterion Referenced Tests	5,8	CRT
New Hampshire	New Hampshire Educational Improvement Assessment Program	6,10	CRT
	Tri-State Assessment End of Grade	4,8,11 (2007-08)	
	New England Common Assessment Program (Tri-State) Science (pilot)	4,8,11	CRT
New Jersey	New Jersey Skills & Knowledge Assessment (NJ ASK)	4	CRT
	Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment (GEPA)	8	CRT
	High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA)	11	CRT
New Mexico	New Mexico Student Assessment Program	3-9,11 (2008)	CRT
New York	Science Examination; Regents	4, 8,HS	CRT
	End of Course Test	HS	CRT
North Carolina	End-of-Grade Science	3-8	CRT
	End of Course	EOC	CRT
North Dakota	North Dakota State Assessment	4,8,11	CRT
Ohio	Ohio Achievement Test	5,8	CRT
	Ohio Proficiency Test	9	CRT
	Ohio Graduation Test	10	CRT
Oklahoma	Oklahoma Core Curriculum Test	5,8,EOI	CRT
Oregon	TESA Science Knowledge and Skills Test	5,8,CIM	CRT
Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)	4,8,11	CRT
Rhode Island	Tri-State Science Assessment (in development)	4,8,11 (2008)	CRT
South Carolina	End of Course Examination Program	EOC	CRT
	Palmetto Achievement Challenge Tests	3-8	CRT
South Dakota	Dakota Step (CRT only 2008)	3-8, 11	Aug-NRT
	Dakota Assessment of Content Standards (DACS)	2-10	CRT
	Achievement Series Assessments	1-12	CRT
Tennessee	Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program Achievement Tests	3-8	CRT
	Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program Gateway Tests	EOC	CRT
Texas	Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS)	5,8,10,11	CRT
Utah	Science Core Criterion Reference Tests	4-8, 11	CRT
Vermont	Vermont - PASS	5,9,11	CRT
Virginia	Standards of Learning Assessment	3,5,8,HS	CRT
Washington	Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL)	5,8,10	CRT
West Virginia	West Virginia Educational Standards Tests (WESTEST)	3-8, 10	CRT
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Knowledge & Concepts Examinations (WKCE)	4,8,10	CRT
Wyoming	Proficiency Assessments for Wyoming Students (PAWS)	4,8,11	CRT

Note: NRT= Norm-referenced test; CRT= Criterion-referenced test; Aug-NRT= Augmented Norm-referenced test; EOC= End of Course; EOI= End of Instruction; CIM= Certificate of Mastery

Sources of Information

CCSSO Key State Education Policies Update, 2008

CCSSO Research on Statewide Student Assessment Programs, 2007-08

CCSSO State Accountability Profiles, http://www.ccsso.org/projects/Accountability_Systems/State_Profiles/

CCSSO State Content Standards,
<http://www.ccsso.org/content/pdfs/2006-07%20Content%20Standards%20FINAL.pdf>

For Further Information on State Profiles

Graduation Requirements

1 Education Week, *Diplomas Count 2009: The Challenge of College Readiness for All Students*, www.edweek.org

2 Center on Education Policy, *State High School Exit Exams: A Move Towards End-of-Course Exams*, January 2008, <http://www.cep-dc.org/document/docWindow.cfm?fuseaction=document.viewDocument&documentid=244&documentFormatId=4224>

Teacher Standards

3 National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC), www.nasdtec.org

4 State Title II Higher Education reports, www.title2.org

5 Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC), http://www.ccsso.org/Projects/interstate_new_teacher_assessment_and_support_consortium/

2006 Key State Education Policies Update Questions

Table 1

Does your state have a policy on the minimum number of days in a school year?

If yes, please provide the minimum number of days in school year.

Please provide detail if the length of the school year in days varies by grade range or level.

Does your state have a policy on the minimum number of hours in a school year?

If yes, what is the minimum number of hours in school year?

Please provide detail if the length of the school year in hours varies by grade range or level.

Does your state have any exceptions to its policy on length of school year?

If yes, please indicate the minimum hours after exceptions have been approved.

Please indicate the minimum days after exceptions have been approved.

Table 2

What is the date or range of dates on which the majority of the public schools in your state began the fall semester?

Does your state have a policy on the earliest allowable start date for school?

If yes, what is the policy on the earliest allowable start date?

Does your state have a policy on the latest allowable start date for school?

If yes, what is the policy on the latest allowable start date?

Table 3

Does your state have a policy on the length of a school day?

If yes, please describe your state's policy on the length of a school day for each of the following sets of grades.

Pre-Kindergarten; Partial-day Kindergarten; Full-day Kindergarten; Grades 1-6; Grades 7-8; Grades 9-12.

Table 4

Does your state have a policy on year-round schools?

If yes, what is your state's policy regarding year-round schools?

What is your state's definition of a year-round school?

Are there now districts in your state that run year-round schools?

If yes, how many districts have year-round schools?

Table 5

Are local districts required to offer kindergarten?

If yes, are they required to offer a full- or half-day program?

Are students required to attend or enroll in kindergarten?

Table 6

What is your state's policy on the age by which children must enter school?

What is your state's policy on the age to which students remain in school?

Does your state have a policy on the age at which students may enter kindergarten?

If yes, please provide the entrance age.

Does your state have a policy on the date by which entry into kindergarten is cut-off?

Table 7

Does your state have a policy on the number of credits (Carnegie units) required for a standard diploma in math, English, arts, social studies or science, or a policy on the total number of credits required for a diploma?

If yes, please indicate credit requirements.

2006 Key State Education Policies Update Questions (con't)

Table 8

Does your state have a policy on math or science courses required for graduation? If yes, does your state require completion of any specific math courses?

If yes, what specific math courses are required?

Does your state require completion of any specific science course?

If yes, what specific science courses are required?

Table 9

Are there any other specific courses required in the other subject areas?

If yes, what is/are the subject area(s), course(s) and associated credit requirement(s)?

Table 10

Does your state have credit (Carnegie unit) requirements in the areas of health, physical education, or foreign language for high school graduation?

If yes, what are the requirements? (Health, Physical Education, Foreign Language)

Table 11

Does your state have a policy on the number of credits required for an advanced diploma?

If yes, indicate the graduation requirements (by subject and total credits) for advanced diploma.

Table 12

Does your state have a required exit examination for receipt of a high school diploma?

If yes, please provide the name of the assessment(s), and describe the test type(s) and the high school student accountability.

Table 16

Does your state have professional development requirements for teacher license renewal or recertification?

How often do teachers need to apply for recertification and license renewal? (e.g., every 5 years)?

What are the criteria for renewal/recertification?

Within these required hours/credits, does your state have any specific content requirements (e.g., teachers must take a certain number of hours in their main assignment field; in mathematics or technology, etc.)?

If yes, please describe the requirements.

